## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Paragraph 0007 with the following:

[0007]    Depending on the transmission rate or bandwidth demand of the ATM data stream, the ATM data stream will have to be divided over several lower capacity lines. For example, if the data is received at a rate that is four times an optimal data rate of the lower capacity lines, then the incoming ATM cell stream will have to be inverse multiplexed onto or carried by at least four lines.

Please replace Paragraph 0010 with the following:

[0010]    Therefore, what is needed is a system and method for restoring data flow without having the associated delay caused by ~~calculate~~ calculating a new optimal rate and, hence, eliminate the down time caused by a failure in a link.

Please replace Paragraph 0020 with the following:

[0020]    The IMUX 22 includes a transmitter 34 and the receiver 36. The receiver 36 receives the DS1 data streams 32a-n from the transmitter 24 of the IMUX 20 and multiplexes the DS1 data streams 32a-n. The IMUX 22 can also receive an incoming ATM cell stream and inverse multiplex the incoming ATM cell stream over the links 28a-n. More specifically, the transmitter 34 of the IMUX 22 accepts an inbound ATM cell stream 54 over a physical ATM communication link 50. The transmitter 34 inverse multiplexes the ATM cell stream 54 in the form of DS1 data streams 30a-n over a selected number of the links 28a-n , respectively, that are then received by the receiver 26 of the IMUX 20. The receiver 26 multiplexes the DS1 data streams 30a-n to form an outbound ATM cell stream 42 that is transmitted over the ATM communication link 40.

Please replace Paragraph 0023 with the following:

[0023]    In selecting the optimal transmission rate, various factors are considered, including the characteristics of each link 28. For example, if four links between the IMUX 20 and 22 are

selected, such as links 28a-d, to carry the inverse multiplexed ATM cell stream, then four links are trained at the selected optimal rate. Calculation of the optimal rate is the subject of US Application Serial No. [[_____]] 09/751,581 titled "Method and System for Establishing Link bit Rate for Inverse Multiplexed Data Streams" ~~Filed~~ filed on [[_____]] December 29, 2000 and incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace Paragraph 0028 with the following:

[0028]          In order to ~~eliminated~~ eliminate delays due to a link failure, the fourth available link, such as link 28d, is also trained to operate at the 2 Mbps rate, but acts as an idle link. Accordingly, if any one of the three active links 28a-c fails, then the idle link 28d can be used to immediately carry the traffic and, thereby, avoid the down time associated with having to retrain the failed link or add and train new links.

Please replace Paragraph 0031 with the following:

[0031]          Once an idle link turns to an active status to take over for a failed ~~links~~ link, then the idle link becomes one of the active links and the traffic flow continues as before. Meanwhile, if the failed ~~links~~ link can be restored, then the failed link is restored and trained at the optimal rate and its status is set to idle. Thus, the link, which had failed before and was replaced, is now in idle status and ready to replace any of the links in the group, should any of the links in the group fail. The system is always attempting to retrain a failed link to become the idle link.